

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of claim 3 is acknowledged.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected as being anticipated by Massie (USP 6,590,208). The Massie reference has a U.S. filing date of January 19, 2001, which is after the priority date to which the subject matter of claims 1 and 2 are entitled. Specifically, claims 1 and 2 are supported by the disclosure of Japanese Priority Application No. 2000-071128 filed in Japan on March 14, 2000, which is earlier than the U.S. filing date of the Massie reference.

Submitted herewith is an accurate English translation of Japanese Priority Application No. 2000-071128, filed in Japan on March 14, 2000, in order to prove that the subject matter of rejected claims 1 and 2 is supported by the disclosure of Japanese Priority Application No. 2000-071128, and are entitled to the priority date of March 14, 2000.

Since claims 1 and 2 are entitled to the priority date of March 14, 2000, which is earlier than the U.S. filing date of the Massie reference, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 2 based on Massie has been overcome.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1 and 2 based on Massie be withdrawn, and it is respectfully requested that claims 1-3 all be allowed.

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Holtz
Reg. No. 22,974

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.
767 Third Avenue - 25th Floor
New York, New York 10017-2023
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900
Fax No. (212) 319-5101

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